(c) the capital investment made in these units so far and the capital invested by the public sector financial institutions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units financed by the Scheduled Commercial banks. According to the RBI, the number of sick SSI units at the end of March, 2001 was 2,49,630 with an outstanding amount of Rs. 4505.54 crores. Among these, there were 13,076 potentially viable sick SSI units with an outstanding amount of Rs. 399.17 crores. Out of these 753 units have been put under nursing programme with an outstanding amount of Rs. 120.29 crores. The rehabilitation package for each potentially viable sick SSI unit is determind by the concerned bank after discussion with the entrepreneur concerned and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the RBI on 17th April, 1993 and 3rd July, 1993 for extending relief/concessions for revival of such units. These guidelines have since been revised by the RBI of 16th January, 2002.

South Korean cooperation

†*525. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues/subjects discussed for cooperation in the field of defence, commerce, finance and information technology during his recent visit to South Korea;

(b) whether cooperation of South Korea to combat terrorism was also solicited during the visit;

(c) if so, South Korea's reaction thereto; and

(d) the existing percentage of trade between India and South Korea and the agenda framed in the talks to boost the same?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) I visited the Republic of Korea from 2—4 April 2002 at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of ROK. During the visit I called on President Kim Dae Jung and had discussions with my counterpart Mr. Choi Sung-hong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The first meeting of the India-ROK Joint Commission was also held during this visit for which I led the Indian delegation.

The subject discussed included enhancement of high level political exchanges, trade and investment matters, defence exchanges, cooperation against terrorism, exchanges in S&T, IT and communications, cultural matters and cooperation in multilateral organisations.

It was agreed that discussions on counter-terrorism will be included in the annual Foreign Office Consultations. The Republic of Korea also conveyed its continued support for finalizing the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations.

India's exports to ROK accounted for 1% of India's total exports in 2000-01 and imports from ROK 1.56% of India's total imports in the same year. Ways land means to enhance trade and investment flows between in the countries were discussed in the Joint Commission meeting. It was agreed that further efforts should be made to promote both trade and investment. The next meeting of the Joint Trade Committee will be held in the second half of this year.

Use of Internet

*526. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of Internet in the country is not at the expected level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for promotion of Internet in rural, remote and hilly areas during the last three years?